(b) if so what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what measures Government propose to take to avert financial crisis in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) A Government of West Bengal has reported that it, in fact, had not borrowed any money directly from any Private Financial institution. It had utilised a total amount of Rs 60 crores only deposited by the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Limited, a public sector financial institution. The above Institution borrowed money from Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Ltd., a private sector financial institution in 1992. The money was utilised by the State Government to meet its immediate commitments. The entire amount has already been repaid.

As Government of Kerala failed to clear its overdraft with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) within seven stipulated days, the payments on the State's account was suspended by the RBI on 3 occasions during 1992-93. The payment on Government of Kerala's account, on each occasion, was resumed by RBI as soon as the State cleared its overdraft with the RBI.

So far as Bihar is concerned, the State has gone into overdraft on 13 occasions during the current financial year. However, on no occasion, the State continued in overdraft for more than seven stipulated days. As such RBI did not suspend payments on behalf of the State Government on any occasion.

(b) Financial difficulties of the above States have arisen mainly on account of the imbalance between the States receipts and expenditure during the year.

(c) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to keep their expenditure within the framework of receipts so that they do not run into overdraft in their accounts with the RBI. However, Government of India have been helping the States to overcome their temporary ways and means difficulties by releasing, in advance, States entitlements, rephasing their Central loan repayment liability and by giving ways and means advances.

**Theft from SBI local Head Office, New Delhi**

3984. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some articles like copper name plates, and computers, were stolen by some people from the premises of the State Bank of India's Local Head Office in New Delhi;

(b) whether any action has been taken against the persons involved in these incidents;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is laxity in the security check at the premises; and there is no metal detector at the entrance; and

(d) what action his Ministry would take so that such incidents do not recur in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that some small sized brass name plates were found missing in the months of November-December, 1992. A computer printer was lost about four years ago. The Culprits have not been identified.

(c) and (d) SBI has denied any laxity in the security check up at the premises. However, there is no Metal Detector at the entrance. It has further tightened the security and the

security cell has been instructed to ensure strict security measures in the bank's New Delhi Local Head Office Premises.

**Branches of Regional rural banks**

3985. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of Regional Rural Banks functioning at presentation each of States;

(b) the number of branches of such banks proposed to be opened in each State during the current year;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred on opening of the new branches;

(d) the role played by the Regional Rural Banks in the economic development of the rural areas; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to ensure that the Regional Rural Banks fulfil the role assigned to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) There were 14539 branches of the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) functioning in various States as at the end of March, 1992 as indicated in Statement I (*See* below)

(b) According to National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), RRBs were yet to open 58 branches in different States during the current year, for which licences had been issued, as indicated in Statement II (*See* below)

(c) The expenditure involved in the establishment of new branches depend upon the location of the branches, manpower employed, and other expenses involved which vary from bank to bank, and, therefore, no estimates of likely expenditure can be made.

(d) RRBs have helped the economic development of rural areas in a number of ways e.g. by taking the banking services to the doorsteps of rural masses particularly in hitherto unbanked areas through 14539 branches, making available institutional credit of Rs. 4086 crores (outstanding as of March, 1992) to the weaker sections of the society, mobilising rural savings to the extent of Rs. 5851 crores as of March, 1992, and channelising the same for productive activities in rural areas and creating employment opportunities for weaker sections in the rural areas.

(e) Regional Rural Banks have been established with the objective of providing concessional audit mainly to the target group borrowers namely small farmers, marginal farmers and landless labourers, rural artisans, etc. Having regard to the general need for imparting viability to lending operations of the RRBs, recently relaxation in the existing norms has been made and as a result RRBs have been permitted to finance non-target groups to an extent not exceedig 40 per cent of their incremental lending. The area of operation of these banks is usually confined to one of two districts and, therefore, the resources raised by them have been ploughed back for supporting developmental activities in the same area.